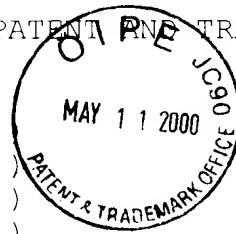


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

Mathias GEHRMANN et al.

Serial No.: 08/989,896

Group Art Unit: 1644

Filed: December 12, 1997

Examiner: D. Saunders

For: FUSION PROTEINS FOR
PRODRUG ACTIVATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This is a response to the Office Action mailed January 12, 2000 (Paper No. 6). Applicants have concurrently filed a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(c) to extend the period for filing this response up to and including May 12, 2000.

Please amend the application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 4, please insert:

--REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. application Ser. No. 08/475,826, filed June 7, 1995, (abandoned), which is a